



CARTER COURIER

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LETTER FROM THE CONGRESSMAN

Dear Friends,

I wish you all a prosperous and healthy 2007! The new year brings a new Congress and new opportunities. 2007 will also bring a few changes to the Carter Courier. In response to input from my constituents, we will be publishing the Courier every other week, rather than each week. We will also provide a pdf AND text-only version for each edition to make it more accessible to all readers.

For those of you who are new to the Carter Courier distribution list, the Courier is a newsletter I send to constituents to keep you informed of my actions in Washington, D.C. and the 31st District of Texas. The Courier typically includes write-ups and pictures for events I've attended, information about bills I am supporting and why, as well as a kid's page and coloring page to keep young constituents informed and interested in government.

This week I was honored to have attended the funeral and show my respect for our 38th President. My thoughts and prayers are with Betty Ford and the entire family as they mourn the loss of President Gerald Ford. We know now that Gerald Ford, the everyman, was what we needed to move the country back to where we believed in ourselves again. I had the honor to meet President Ford on two occasions. He was a good and humble man and President. Ford came in under tough circumstances. But I'll tell you what—I'd take two years of Gerald Ford over four years of Jimmy Carter any day.

As the new Congress convenes this week, I am looking forward to continuing my efforts to protect the interests of the people of Central Texas. While I will work with my Democrat colleagues on policies that will benefit the country, I will also hold them accountable for their actions. I will work to support our troops in the war on terror and ensure that policies remain in place to allow the economy to continue to grow.

Until next week,



CARTER STATEMENT ON THE START OF THE 110TH CONGRESS

As the 110th Congress convenes, I look forward to continuing work to protect the interests of Central Texans and for policy that reflects our values.

I commend Nancy Pelosi (D-CA) for becoming the first female Speaker of the House. This is a historic event and deserves to be recognized as such.

I will be doing everything I can to promote issues affecting national security and economic security. Specifically, I will ensure that our troops receive the support they deserve. I will continue my commitment to stopping the flow of illegal immigrants coming across our border. And, I will fight any efforts by the Democrat majority to threaten our strong economy by raising taxes. It is important we keep policies in place that have allowed more people to have

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good-paying jobs.

I am hopeful that I will be able to work with my colleagues on the other side of the aisle on important policies that will benefit the American people.

I am, however, concerned that the Democrats have already broken promises that they made along the campaign trail. I hope they will promote a bipartisan environment that will allow us to better serve the American people. Unfortunately, in their first 100

CARTER REACTION TO SADDAM HUSSEIN HANGING

On December 29, 2006, the people of Iraq hung Saddam Hussein for killing 148 Shiites. This day would not have been possible if it weren't for the 4th Infantry Division based at Fort Hood which is credited with the capture of Hussein three years ago.

Saddam Hussein was an oppressive leader who tortured and murdered thousands of innocent people during his reign. As the judge of five capital murder cases in Texas, I believe today's execution of this cruel dictator is another indication that the Iraqi government is capable of establishing the rule of law and it is a victory for the Iraqi people.

The outstanding members of the 4th Infantry Division should stand with pride today for capturing this vicious leader over three years ago. Justice has now been served and the Iraqi people can begin a new, free chapter in their nation's history.

THE PRESCRIPTION DRUG PLAN—A MEDICARE UPDATE WORTH KEEPING IN PLACE

Access to quality healthcare is something that Americans should be able to depend on. Medicare and the new prescription drug plan are in place to provide affordable health services to millions of American seniors. Medicare Part D was rolled out in the past year and seniors throughout the country are seeing the benefits of this plan.

The prescription drug benefit is allowing Medicare to evolve with our nation's medical advancements. And while it took some time for people to get used to the new program, seniors who are enrolled with Medicare Part D are not only very satisfied with the coverage they are receiving, they are also saving money.

When Congress crafted the prescription drug benefit, it was important to introduce a competitive pricing structure in order to lower drug costs for seniors. As expected, competition is having the intended effect - it is driving down drug prices and premiums for seniors. The Medicare prescription drug benefit has already lowered premiums to an average of \$25 per month. And there are many plans available with no premiums or no deductibles.

Before being enrolled in this comprehensive prescription drug benefit, many seniors paid large sums of their fixed income towards expensive medication. Some seniors were forced to cut back on their drug dosage or forgo them altogether because of cost. In 2002, 45 percent of Medicare beneficiaries lacked prescription-drug coverage for all or some of the year. Now, more than 90 percent of Medicare beneficiaries have drug coverage.

Although there will be increases to Medicare premiums in 2007, they will be modest. In fact, an analysis by Georgetown University's Health Policy Institute estimated that average premiums in 2007 will be \$3.10 a month higher for those who stick with the same plan. For seniors with limited means, additional help is available. About one-third of all people with Medicare will qualify for extra assistance that will cover between 85 percent and almost 100 percent of prescription drug costs.

For more information on Medicare, you can visit their website at www.medicare.gov or call a Medicare representative at 1-800-MEDICARE.

For seniors the choice is easy: enroll now, and start saving. If you are eligible for this benefit and have yet to sign up, take action and join the more than 30 million seniors who are reaping the benefits of Medicare Part D.



Kids' Page

REMEMBERING OUR 38TH PRESIDENT

On December 26, 2006, President Ford passed away at the age of 93 in Rancho Mirage, California

On January 2, 2007, the nation formally honored President Gerald R. Ford for his life and achievements during a National Day of Mourning.

Ford was the first, and so far--only, Vice President chosen under the terms of the Twenty-fifth Amendment and, in the aftermath of the Watergate scandal, was succeeding the first President ever to resign.

The only President not elected to office, Gerald Ford when he took the oath of office on August 9, 1974, he declared, "I assume the Presidency under extraordinary circumstances.... This is an hour of history that troubles our minds and hurts our hearts."

Born in Omaha, Nebraska, in 1913, he grew up in Grand Rapids, Michigan. He starred on the University of Michigan football team, then went to Yale, where he served as assistant coach while earning his law degree. During World War II he attained the rank of lieutenant commander in the Navy. After the war he returned to Grand Rapids, where he began the practice of law, and entered Republican politics.

Ford served 25 years in Congress, and was House Minority Leader from from 1965 to 1973. Ford served as President for three years, from 1974-1977.

President Ford was honored with services ranging from a private family service in California, lying in state and a service in Washington, D.C., ending with the burial service in Michigan.

President Ford lied in state in the Rotunda of the U.S. Capitol from December 30, 2006, through the morning of January 2, 2007, Lying in state in the Rotunda is a way for the nation to pay final tribute to its most eminent citizens.

The catafalque, a simple bier of rough pine boards and covered with black cloth, is used to support the casket while the former president's body lies in state in the Capitol.

The catafalque was constructed in 1865 to support the casket of Abraham Lincoln and has since been used for all those who have lain in state in the Capitol Rotunda. When not in use, the catafalque is kept below the Crypt in a small vaulted chamber called Washington's Tomb, which was originally intended, but never used, as the burial place for the first president.

Coloring Page

WHITE HOUSE

